

# Cryptograph Decoding

## Teacher Information

### Background Information

Communication teams must be sure to be accurate when communicating messages for other teams. Decoding practice is a good way to emphasize that messages have to be accurate. Cryptographs are word puzzles. Each letter in the puzzle represents another letter of the alphabet. Once certain letters are determined, then words can be deciphered and finally the entire puzzle.

### Materials

- Student Sheets with Number Code Chart (1 copy per student)
- pencils

### Procedure – Activity #1 (Telephone)

1. Students should sit in a line.
2. Have one person start a short phrase to be whispered from person to person.
3. Have the last person receiving the message repeat it aloud.
4. Compare the message with the original phrase. Did communication take place? Did everyone communicate?

### Procedure – Activity #2

1. Students should use the number code on the Student Sheet to write 2 sentences with Challenger terms.
2. Then, students should trade papers to decode their sentences.

## Answer Key

### Activity 1: John Glenn Cryptograph

“OVB, NIRN XRM R GFERS DCGFORSS VD R GCLF!”

Answer:

*“Boy, that was a real fireball of a ride!”*

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## Student Sheet

Communication teams must be sure to be accurate when communicating messages for other teams. Decoding practice is a good way to emphasize that messages have to be accurate. Cryptographs are word puzzles. Each letter in the puzzle represents another letter of the alphabet. Once certain letters are determined, then words can be deciphered and finally the entire puzzle.

## Objective

The object of this activity is to try to decode a message in a coded language.

## Materials

- pencils
- Student Sheets (1 copy per student)

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## Procedure - Activity 1: John Glenn Cryptograph

Work with your partner to decipher the puzzle. Write your answer in the box.

Clue: How did John Glenn describe his re-entry into Earth's atmosphere after being the first man to orbit the Earth?

Hint: Each letter of the quote above represents another letter of the alphabet. Think about the letters that are used most in everyday words. Look for letters by themselves...what could they stand for? Use these clues to help you: O=B, G=R. Good Luck!

“OVB, NIRN XRM R GFRS DCGFORSS VD R GCLF!”

Answer:

## Procedure - Activity 2: Design Your Own Cryptograph

Work with your partner to design your own cryptograph, then test other teams or each other. Be careful assigning letters, otherwise the puzzle cannot be solved.

Answer:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z